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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.3)*]

72/218. Disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/226 of 21 December 2016 and all previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2]

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] Agenda 21,[4] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[5] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[7] and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8] in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for

[1] Resolution 69/283, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.
[4] Ibid., annex II.
[5] Resolution S-19/2, annex.
[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[7] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.
[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[9]

Recognizing the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

Reiterating the call in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact this year and in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life, displacement and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters, including through transboundary cooperation,

Noting the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 March 2016, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[10] and acknowledging that forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as contribute to soil and water conservation and clean air, and that forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust storms and sandstorms and other natural disasters,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and

[9] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[10] See resolution 71/285.

extreme weather events, may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[11] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards, including the El Niño phenomenon, and the adverse effects of climate change to estimate and to prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response, early action and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to enhance resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing risk-informed strategies, forecast-based financing approaches and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems,

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Recalling the observance, on 5 November 2017, of World Tsunami Awareness Day, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/203 of 22 December 2015,

Recognizing the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran as a regional institution of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/226;[13]

2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[2]

3. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[13] A/72/259.

and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages countries, the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, programmes and funds and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk reduction activities for the achievement of sustainable development and, inter alia, strengthening the effectiveness of disaster relief efforts;

5. *Encourages* focused action within and across sectors by countries at the local, national, regional and global levels in the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework, namely, understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and in order to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

6. *Acknowledges* the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system in disaster risk reduction and the updated United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, and encourages the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to continue to align their work with the Plan of Action in order to enhance the coordination, coherence and efficiency of support to countries on disaster risk reduction, guided by the Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, according to the Sendai Framework;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets adopted in the Sendai Framework;

8. *Recognizes* progress made in achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework;

9. *Also recognizes* in this regard, given the shorter time frame for achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020, the scale of action needed for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, and thus encourages States to continue to prioritize and support the development of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, promoting synergies with existing national policies and plans, including national climate change adaptation plans, where relevant, and to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities, as well as the conduct of risk assessments, and reaffirms the need for the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

10. *Encourages* the incorporation of disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate, into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors related to sustainable development, including poverty reduction, agriculture, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change;

11. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, and encourages all States, United

Nations bodies and other relevant actors to promote ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches at all levels;

12. *Also recognizes* that economic losses are rising as a result of the increasing number and value of assets exposed to hazards, and encourages countries to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure, to make disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure and housing investments and to strengthen regulatory frameworks for land-use planning and building codes, as appropriate, towards achieving target (d) of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages countries to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into social, economic and environmental investments;

13. *Acknowledges* that water is essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,[14] and that water-related disasters and multidimensional hazards threaten lives, livelihoods, agriculture and basic service infrastructure and cause substantial socioeconomic damage and losses, and that sustainable and integrated water resource management is necessary for successful disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and in this regard invites all countries to integrate land and water management, including for floods and droughts, into their national and subnational planning and management processes;

14. *Emphasizes* that preventing and reducing disaster risk provides exponential returns and significantly reduced costs associated with subsequent response, as well as the importance of additional efforts to increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning mechanisms of States, in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to support these efforts;

15. *Urges* States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to continue working on data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including working towards the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible;

16. *Encourages* States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where it is reflected across several Goals and targets, including in their voluntary national reviews;

17. *Reiterates its strong encouragement* of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[15] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[16] and the Sendai Framework, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[12] the Convention on Biological Diversity,[17] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[18] and the New Urban Agenda,[9] while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

18. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the

[14] Resolution 70/1.
[15] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[16] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[18] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

19. *Welcomes* the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction,[19] and the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the Sendai Framework global targets and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 as an important contribution to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, collection of data and reporting, and also welcomes efforts to develop coherent metrics for reporting under the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant instruments;

20. *Recognizes* that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge, and in this regard encourages States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, in reporting on the Sendai Framework;

21. *Looks forward* to the launch in early 2018 of the Sendai Framework monitor, and encourages States to use the online monitor to report on progress against the Sendai Framework global targets and the Sustainable Development Goals related to disaster risk;

22. *Recognizes* the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;

23. *Also recognizes* the importance of giving priority to the development of local and national disaster risk reduction capacity-building, policies, strategies and plans with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national practices and legislation;

24. *Further recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels;

25. *Encourages* Governments to promote the full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women, as well as of persons with disabilities, in the

[19] A/71/544 and A/71/644/Corr.1.

design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, and recognizes in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters, and that disasters and the consequent disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and their families;

26. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

27. *Recognizes* that biological hazards require strengthened coordination between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning, and that resilient health infrastructures and strengthened health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),[20] as well as increasing the overall capacity of health systems, reduce overall disaster risk and build disaster resilience;

28. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Mexico for hosting the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May 2017, acknowledges the Chair's summary and the Cancun high-level communiqué, and reaffirms the importance of the Global Platform as a forum to assess and discuss progress on the Sendai Framework and advance coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

29. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Canada, Fiji, Finland, India, Mauritius, Qatar and Tajikistan as hosts of the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, recognizes the platforms as important mechanisms for cooperation to implement the Sendai Framework, looks forward to the upcoming regional platforms and their deliberations, to be held in Colombia, Italy, Mongolia and Tunisia, as well as to the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be hosted by Switzerland in Geneva in 2019, and recognizes the contributions these platforms make to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

30. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk, and encourages States to strengthen international and regional information exchange and sharing, including through establishing and networking risk management centres, promoting critical technology research cooperation on disaster reduction and improving international coordination mechanisms to respond to large-scale natural disasters;

31. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for

[20] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

32. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding and, where possible, to augment financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

33. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the private sector to enhance the resilience of businesses by integrating disaster risk into their management practices and to facilitate private investments in disaster risk reduction;

34. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, including forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

35. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;

36. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017